



Literacy B.C. NEWSLETTER

June 1998

Volume 4, Number 2

Tuition-free ABE on July 1!

The B.C. government has removed tuition fees for adult basic education (ABE) in colleges as of July 1, 1998.

The announcement was made at a press conference at Vancouver Community College on May 13. The conference was attended by Premier Glen Clark; Andrew Petter, Minister of Advanced Education, Training and Technology (MAETT); and Education Minister Paul Ramsey. The event was also relayed live by audio to four other B.C. colleges.

The announcement means that students will no longer have to pay any tuition fees for ABE at all public post-secondary institutions. ABE in B.C. school districts is tuition-free for students who have not completed Grade 12.

"Regardless of income or where you live, you can now have a free high school education," said Clark.

"We hope that this step opens the door... for thousands of people in B.C. to come back to school and get the tools they need to be successful."

Audrey Thomas, Education Officer, Developmental Programs, Colleges and Program Planning Branch, MAETT, said: "Calls for a comprehensive tuition-free ABE program for B.C. have been made since 1974. Now, with both colleges and school districts providing tuition-free ABE, we have one of the most comprehensive systems in Canada."

"This is an educational milestone. It shows the current government's commitment to improving access to education and making it more affordable for those adults who need it most."

Inside:
"Federal Literacy Facts"
from the
Movement for Canadian Literacy

see next page for reaction...

Reaction to the announcement

It's great to see that a long-standing objective of Literacy B.C. has finally been achieved. Our government has made a smart decision, for people and for our economy.

Paul Gallagher, President of Literacy B.C.

This is a landmark initiative and it will have a huge positive impact on the lives of many people.

Linda Mitchell, Executive Director, Literacy B.C.

This is very exciting news for colleges and especially for students. This will provide much easier access for students and let them move on to other programs. One of the barriers for many students was financial and this has been removed.

Jean Cockell, Chair, Deans and Directors of Developmental Education in B.C.

The elimination of fees will make a huge difference in the lives of tens of thousands of British Columbians.

Ed Lavalley, President of the College Institute Educator's Association of B.C.

A Student's View

Betty Carter is a 26-year old single mother and President of the King Edward Campus Student Association. Carter told the conference she was a Grade 7 drop-out who "couldn't read or write or do simple math." She has now completed grades 8, 9 and 10 and is taking grade 11 courses at KEC, earning a B+ to A average. Carter decided to return to school, "because I couldn't read menus or children's books and I wanted to read to my child."

Carter said tuition-free ABE "means so much to single parents and families on welfare." With the elimination of fees, "financial aid can be directed at more important issues, like housing, transportation and even food."

Background Notes

- ☐ The budget for ABE in the college system is \$35.6 million. School districts receive \$48 million to fund ABE.
- ☐ Of the 21,000 students enrolled in college ABE, approximately 18,000 now pay tuition. About 3,000 are in literacy level programs, which have been tuition-free since 1990.
- ☐ The average cost of each college course is \$120 and the average student takes three courses.
- ☐ The government will compensate colleges for lost ABE tuition.

NEWS FROM LITERACY B.C.

We want to remind our readers -- practitioners, tutors, learners, literacy organizations -- to get your entry in now for the Literacy B.C. learner award. Sponsored by **The Co-operators**, the **Provincial Learner Achievement Award** recognizes the outstanding achievements of an adult learner in B.C.

The \$200 award will be presented at the 1998 Literacy B.C. Annual General Meeting in October. The winner will be announced at this year's PGI golf tournament in July.

To be eligible for **The Co-operators Learner Achievement Award**, the learner must:

- ☐ have attended a literacy/ABE program for at least six months, and preferably a year
- ☐ have an excellent attendance record
- ☐ obtain a recommendation from a teacher or tutor
- ☐ have shown exceptional progress in his or her studies.

The deadline for applications is June 20, 1998.

The winner will be chosen by a committee of adult learners.

Contact Literacy B.C. for application forms. ☐

Thank you to our donors!

We wish to thank the following individuals and organizations for donating \$100 or more to Literacy B.C. in the past few months

Spectre International Marketing
Deanna Sordi The Hydrecs Fund
CGA Canada Joanne Brown

Thank you also to those who gave up to \$100

Paul Gallagher Heather Holmes
Iris Strong Janice Dyck Joan Doree
Barbara McBride Jan Seedhouse
Mardy Bodie-Atkin James McCullum
David Griffiths

A SPECIAL THANK YOU to Scholastic Books!

Janet King of Scholastic Book Fairs has facilitated the donation of several boxes of children's books to Literacy B.C. We are very grateful for this wonderful donation.

Canada Post Flight for Freedom awards *take off*



Canada Post has announced major changes to the annual Flight for Freedom Literacy Awards.

The purpose of the changes is to involve grass roots organizations in every province and territory, and to ensure that the competition reaches as many people as possible.

The 1998 program features 38 awards:

☐ Individual Literacy Achievement Award

There are 24 awards in this category, for one English and one French speaking learner in each province and territory. The award is open to any adult Canadian (18 years or older) who improved his or her literacy skills in a recognized literacy program in their community or workplace. Each winner will receive a computer system.

☐ Literacy Education Award

These national awards honour one English language and one French language educator or tutor, for dedication and commitment to literacy. Each winner will receive a \$5000 scholarship.

☐ Literacy Leadership Awards

Twelve organizations, one from each province and territory, will receive this award honouring long-term achievement, innovation, leadership and organizational excellence. The award is open to any non-profit literacy organization with active programs (training, tutoring, awareness, advocacy, etc.) in the previous three years. Each winner will receive a computer system.

An awards ceremony will be held in the capital city of each province and territory in late September (12 ceremonies in all). One person from each province and territory will be nominated to sit on the judging panel.

The deadline for submissions is **June 29, 1998.**

To obtain entry forms, contact Literacy B.C. ☎

This issue of the Literacy B.C. Newsletter carries reports from three northern regions of B.C. -- New Caledonia, Northern Lights and the Northwest. Our purpose is to tell you something about literacy in B.C.'s North, and highlight some of the region's community groups. In future issues, we'll focus on groups active in other regions.

NEWS FROM B.C.'s NORTH ... Northern Lights

The Drop-in Learning Centre

c/o Northern Lights College
Box 860, 5504 Simpson Trail
Fort Nelson, B.C.
V0C 1R0
Phone: (250) 774-3735
Fax: (250) 774-2750
Contact: Sarah Stocker

Early this year a new literacy centre opened in Fort Nelson. The Drop-in Learning Centre was set up to provide literacy and tutoring services for women and families in the community.

The Centre grew out of a partnership between Northern Lights College, the Fort Nelson Women's Resource Centre and the Chamber of Commerce.

The Centre instructor/coordinator is Sarah Stocker, who reports:

"The Centre is housed in our local union hall, located very centrally in town and in the same building as our women's resource centre. We have a learner-driven approach and we offer services in the area of reading, writing,

basic math, and form filling." The Centre has been operating about ten hours a week, since its grand opening in March.

Stocker describes the grand opening as "a family-oriented event, with refreshments, decorations, and even a fire truck and a fireman there to attract the kids."

"The learners in the ABE program at Northern Lights have been very involved in the planning of this centre from the beginning and continue to be a part of the ongoing work," she says. She wants to get the word out to the community that anyone at any age can use the facilities.

With the arrival of spring, attendance dropped off, so the Centre is trying to recruit more learners. Parents had been asking the Centre to provide after-school tutoring for their children, but the goal is to encourage them to make use of the workshops and drop-ins that are designed for parents and children to participate in together. Stocker hopes the current campaign targeting families will make this happen.

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NEWS FROM B.C.'s NORTH ... Northern Lights

"Drop-in Learning Centre" from page 5

When the current cost-shared project funding ends, the Centre will stay in business with help from the community. The union hall space is donated, and access to Northern Lights College resources and trained volunteer tutors is in place. Stocker says she'll approach community service agencies and the Chamber to petition for their continued support.

Fort St. John Literacy Society

Box 6196

Fort. St. John, B.C.

V1J 4A7

Phone: (250) 785-2110

Fax: (250) 785-2127

Contact: Victoria Knox

C.H.O.O.S.E. Success. That's what the Society chose to call the family literacy project it put together this year from 1997-98 cost-shared funding.

Creating Healthy Options
Optimizing Self-Esteem reflects the need recognized by parents in the program to boost their self-esteem along with their literacy skills.

Victoria Knox, coordinator of the drop-in literacy centre, reports the family program is nearly ready to start. Plans are to combine literacy upgrading with training in parenting skills over a two day period for each participant. They have spent the past few months pulling together community support and writing the research report.

Partners with the Society in the project are Northern Lights College and the Fort St. John Public Library.

In addition to the family literacy program, the walk-in centre also offers volunteer tutoring. In fact, they've just come through their busiest period of the year.

"What is different up here," explains Knox, "is the extreme fluctuation in the demand for our services. We're such a booming place right now -- with all the oil and gas activity -- that our unemployment rate is practically zip. That means the guys are out there working 20 hour days at this time of year. But as soon as that changes, with the warmer weather, we're inundated -- because the guys have the time."

"This year the busy period happened in April... it lasted for two weeks. So it's a narrow window to work with -- anywhere from two weeks to a month that we're busy. We have to make the most of it."



NEWS FROM B.C.'s North ... Northern Lights

Twin Sisters Publishing Company

P.O. Box 160
Moberly Lake, B.C.
V0C 1X0
Phone: (250) 788-9754
Fax: (250) 788-9347
e-mail: info@TwinSisters.bc.ca
Contact: Lana Garbitt, Administrator

Moberly Lake, 50 miles north of Chetwynd, is the home of the Twin Sisters Publishing Company, a unique native-run publishing house operated by the Salteau First Nations.

Twin Sisters started in 1994 as a training program for native ABE students at the Muskoti Learning Centre. It now operates as an independent publishing house under the umbrella of Salteau First Nations. The publishing company maintains a link with Northern Lights College, and has partnered with it in several literacy cost-shared projects.

The first projects developed by Twin Sisters were children's books. In 1997 it published, **Roast Moose and Rosaries: Fred and Mary's Story** (see box on next page) as a B.C. literacy cost-shared project.

The company is currently working on another literacy cost-shared project, **When I Was Young**, a book of elder's stories similar to "Roast Moose." The book is currently in production, with students interviewing local elders, transcribing tapes and working with Twin Sisters staff to edit the stories for publication.

Twin Sisters is also involved in an educational awareness project documenting the life of a First Nations youth in the community living with AIDS.

Twin Sisters intends to expand its current mandate beyond native publishing. Administrator Lana Garbitt would like to see a wider audience for the company's products and services. (As well as book publishing, they also produce business forms, calendars, brochures and letterhead and are "educating themselves in proposal writing techniques.")

The company also produces a monthly magazine of events and community news, called "Moberly Matters," sold throughout Moberly Lake.

"Our goal is to do not only native publishing but expand outside of our own community," says Garbitt. "We want to be a native publishing house for everyone by providing a more positive native image." She anticipates Twin Sisters growing to include up to ten employees.

NEWS FROM B.C.'s North ... Northern Lights



These Twin Sisters literacy cost-shared projects are available on loan from Literacy B.C. or order your own copy from Twin Sisters

Grandfather Bear -- A Story told in Cree

A story about a young girl who receives wonderful gifts from her Grandfather Bear, as told by Elder Madeline Davis Sr.

Roast Moose and Rosaries: Fred and Mary's Story

Roast Moose and Rosaries is the biography of two Salteau First Nations elders in the period between 1910 to 1930, as told through interviews with Muskoti Learning Centre students.

Muskoti Learning Centre

P.O. Box 160
Moberly Lake, B.C.
V0C 1X0
Phone: (250) 788-9754
Fax: (250) 788-9347
Contact: Brent Johnson,
Instructor

Salteau First Nations also operates the Muskoti Learning Centre, a small facility opened in 1992 that offers a variety of adult education programs for members of the Salteau and West Moberly First Nations communities. The facility was at one time part of the Northern Lights College, Chetwynd campus.

Programs include Native ABE (accredited through Northern Lights College), GED, correspondence courses and co-op/work experience.

Northern Lights Regional Coordinator

May Boychuk
Northern Lights College
Dawson Creek Campus
11401 - 8th Street
Dawson Creek, B.C. V1G 4G2
Phone: (250) 782-6069
e-mail: mboychuk@nlc.bc.ca

Fraser Lake Adult Learning Centre

Box 609

Fraser Lake, B.C.

V0J 1S0

Phone/Fax: (250) 699-6261

e-mail: rhenry@mail.sd56.bc.ca

Contacts: Rhonda Henry,
Family Literacy Coordinator

Gloria Olafson, Instructor
email: golafson@mail.sd56.bc.ca

Fraser Lake is home to the Fraser Lake Adult Learning Centre and the centre's new family literacy program, funded by the 1997/98 literacy cost-shared program.

The idea of **Families Learning Together** is to give parents and children the tools to create "positive home experiences" that encourage and support literacy activity in the home.

The project has been a great success, according to the coordinator, Rhonda Henry.

"Most nights anywhere from 40 to 60 people take part and more are coming each week. On a typical night, we start out with homework and study skills.

Then there's an activity for the whole family to participate in and learn from, followed by stories and snacks for everybody."

"It was incredible last week ... We had over 50 people in the program. That night the activity was "modge-podge" -- making clay pots using wrapping paper to make a design on them. A couple of weeks ago we started some plants, so we'll use the pots to put them in. We've also done a lot of crafts -- making birdcages and kites for example, and learned about re-cycling. It's been great.... it is a wonderful experience, having whole families here together."

The partners in Families Learning Together are the College of New Caledonia, the Nechako Literacy Society, and School District #91.

The Fraser Lake Adult Learning Centre also offers literacy, upgrading and high school completion programs using Pathfinder and PLATO learning systems as part of the delivery.

NEWS FROM B.C.'s NORTH ... New Caledonia

College of New Caledonia Lakes District Campus

Box 5000
Burns Lake, B.C.
V0J 1E0
Phone: (250) 692-1700
Fax: (250) 692-1750

Contacts:

Bill Graham, ABE Instructor
Joan Ragsdale, Access Centre
Instructor
Waneta McLean, VALT Coordinator

CNC Burns Lake offers a full ABE program through The Access Centre, as well as a Volunteer Adult Literacy Tutoring (VALT) Program.

ABE Instructor Bill Graham reports: "We have a very high percentage of First Nations students in the Lakes District region. In the past term more than two thirds of fundamental and intermediate level students were of First Nations descent."

Joan Ragsdale, of The Access Centre, adds, "We live in a small community in central B.C. surrounded by lakes and forests. We have a vast rural area with some areas accessed only by radio phones and logging roads and inland ferry. Class times are flexible!"

Graham says the most important issue or challenge facing people who work in literacy/ABE in the Burns Lake region is, "working with students who attend classes inconsistently. This perennial problem has grown enormously in the past two years as increasing numbers of teenage students move from the high school to the college."

Ragsdale adds, "Convincing the public of the value of education and the intensity of the commitment involved is an issue. The balance of life and these ideas create quite a challenge. Another challenge is working in a system plagued with the bureaucracy of credits. Also, because of our rural location, we must deal with small class sizes."

Graham notes that CNC, "has been tuition-free for two years, but the government announcement (that it will remove ABE tuition fees at B.C. colleges on July 1, 1998) is long overdue."

Meet Heather Fisher, the Regional Coordinator for New Caledonia

Tell us about your background.

By training I am a teacher and I have taught in both the public and independent school systems for almost eight years. Although I have been teaching adolescents in learning assistance and special education recently, I thoroughly enjoyed teaching early primary and late intermediate students for four years. Literacy for myself and others is an abiding passion that was modelled as I grew up. My mother, an elementary school teacher, often tutored adults and teens in reading and writing in our home. I have tutored adults for 15 years in many settings.

Tell us about your region.

There are at least 29 adult literacy/learning centres or programs scattered throughout 16 communities. The natural resource of forests forms the economic base for many communities; therefore, any changes in the forest industry affect the people here Because Prince George, considered by many to be the hub of the central interior, is at least a one hour drive from the surrounding communities, an important part of my position is to ensure that I visit almost all of the communities at least once a year.

What is the most important issue or challenge facing people who work in literacy in New Caledonia?

Three issues consistently come up: resources, funding and computer-

assisted instruction. Locating literacy resources such as reading, writing and numeracy strategies is an ongoing need, as no two adults who identify themselves as needing to improve their literacy abilities have the same strengths, weaknesses and school experiences.

Another issue is finding the funding to start and sustain adult, family and workplace programs specially tailored to meet the changing needs of a particular community. Computer-assisted instruction, a staple of many adult learning centres, has often been viewed as a key component to overcoming the barrier of distance for adult learners in northern B.C. Integrating the use of software that meets a variety of adult learning needs into a supportive learner-directed environment is an ongoing challenge for literacy students and instructors.

Has the regional coordination project benefited your region?

Yes! Literacy instructors, learners and volunteer tutors have often cited the (free!) adult literacy conferences held twice a year in various communities as a source of effective literacy strategies and a place to meet with like-minded people. Another tangible benefit was the literacy page in the *Prince George Free Press* put in place by the previous coordinator, Paula Davies.

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NEWS FROM B.C.'s NORTH ... New Caledonia

"Regional Coordinator" continued from page 11

What do you spend most of your time doing as the Regional Coordinator?

Most of my time is spent supporting new and continuing literacy work and raising public awareness of literacy issues. I also provide professional development conferences and workshops, send out literacy information and strategies as requested, assist in proposal writing and visit adult literacy sites ... From this... I can continually keep literacy in the public eye by representing a literacy perspective on steering committees and boards, coordinating media events such as International Literacy Day, advocating on a provincial level and building community partnerships.

What is the biggest reward of your job?

Being actively involved with other people in the process of identifying a literacy need within a community, planning ways to meet that need, obtaining funding, and implementing the strategies that enable each individual learner to meet his or her personal goals.

Heather Fisher

Phone: (250) 562-6664

Fax: (250) 561-5816

Nechako Literacy Society

c/o Sinkutview School
R.R. 2 Sinkutview Road
Vanderhoof, B.C. V0J 3A0
Phone: (250) 567-5133
Fax: (250) 567-4765
Contact: Joyce Upex

Nechako Learning Centre
Box 176
Vanderhoof, B.C. V0J 3A0
Phone: (250) 567-4744
Fax: (250) 567-4266
Contact: Ray Vickers

Joyce Upex started the Nechako Literacy Society in 1991-92, got involved in a number of literacy initiatives, then took three years off from literacy work. Now, as she explains, she "wears three hats."

She is Principal of the Sinkutview Elementary School, and District Principal in Adult Education for the School District (Vanderhoof S.D. #91). She also acts as a liaison for adult education and is an overall resource person on literacy issues throughout the district (which covers Burns Lake and surrounding area -- Fort Fraser, Fort St. James and Fraser Lake).

The Society has applied for cost-shared funds to implement a volunteer tutor training project next year at the Nechako Learning Centre. The Society is also a partner in the Fraser Lake Adult Learning Centre family literacy program.

Houston Link to Learning

Northwest Community College
P.O. Box 1277
Houston, B.C.
V0J 1Z0
Phone: (250) 845-2727
Fax: (250) 845-3521

Contact: Cynthia Howman,
Link Coordinator

Houston Link to Learning is a community-based organization that provides a variety of literacy services to a northern community of approximately 4000 people. Houston is located in the Bulkley Valley, three hours west of Prince George and four hours east of Prince Rupert.

The Link office is located within "The Learning Centre," a relatively new, multi-purpose educational facility in Houston. This is a unique complex which houses a satellite campus of Northwest Community College, the Morice Community Skills Centre, the Houston Storefront School and Houston Link to Learning.

"This combination of education partners provides learners with the opportunity to access a variety of services and programs ranging from

low literacy level one-on-one tutoring to university transfer courses. The partnership also provides for professional support and sharing between the faculty and staff of the various organizations," says Link Coordinator Cynthia Howman.

Howman says Houston Link to Learning is currently grappling with two major issues: "How to attract literacy level learners for one-on-one tutoring, and how to cope with a significant reduction in our funding for the 1998-99 program year."

Howman enjoys living and working in a small community, "because this is quite a new experience for me." She came to northwestern B.C. after holding positions in the Lower Mainland as Director of Continuing Education at Langara College, and Associate Registrar at BCIT.

Northwest Region Regional Coordinator

Sandi Lavallie
Northwest Community College
P.O. Box 1277
Houston, B.C. V0J 1Z0
Phone: (250) 845-7266
Fax: (250) 845-3521

Smithers Literacy Services

Smithers Community Services Association

#201 - 1338 Main Street

P.O. Box 3759

Smithers, B.C.

V0J 2N0

Phone: (250) 847-9515

Fax: (250) 847-3712

**Contact: Jane Boulton,
Program Manager**

The Smithers Community Services Association is the umbrella organization for Smithers Literacy Services. Jane Boulton is the Program Manager. She reports:

"The dominating economic issue in Smithers has been the Skeena Cellulose crisis which we had anticipated would precipitate a lot of workers going into retraining and create a high demand for literacy tutors. A new addition to the local college (Northwest Community College) was funded by Forest Renewal B.C. but so far, they have given us only one literacy referral. Apparently, the workers enrolled are

middle-line workers, upgrading to better paying jobs within the forest industry. Displaced workers are not using the service as predicted.

A recent report in our local paper indicates that only 38% of aboriginal students enrolled in our school district are completing high school. This fact was highlighted in recent meetings I have attended with the Moricetown Education Society (a native village near Smithers). Although we did not receive funding to develop a literacy effort in the village, I will be training tutors there in the fall and hope to work on local native literacy issues as part of the Smithers program.

There is a high demand for ESL tutoring here, and also many parents are looking for assistance with developing the literacy skills of children with learning disabilities. Workshops are planned in partnership with the local learning disabilities association to assist tutors in developing more specific techniques when tutoring adults with LD."

Boulton adds that she also writes a newsletter for her tutors. "I like to think of it as the glue that holds them together," she says.

Learners Opportunity Group

**Northwest Community College
Hazelton Campus**

Box 338

Hazelton, B.C.

V0J 1Y0

Phone: (250) 842-5291

Fax: (250) 842-5813

e-mail:

kerickson@noradm.nwcc.bc.ca

Contact: Karen Erickson

The Learners Opportunity Group provides literacy services and resources to people in the Hazelton area.

Coordinator Karen Erickson reports, "This year our focus is on shifting our services to a more storefront-based operation. We will be housed in the Upper Skeena Community Development Centre, which provides employment, business development and community development services to people in the area. Our services will include support and instruction around day-to-day literacy tasks, small group instruction and one-to-one tutoring services.

We are also excited about the possibility of implementing a literacy model for out-of-school youth (age 18-24). With funding from a Literacy Corps grant we were able to develop

a literacy model for this population. Participants will be engaged in a process of providing service to the community, developing citizenship, and improving their ability to participate in a literate world. It is a model that takes literacy beyond the ability to read and write and into the life of the community."

Literacy Kitimat

310 -- 370 City Centre

Kitimat, B.C.

V8C 1T6

Phone: (250) 632-3139

Fax: (250) 632-3368

e-mail:

mcintosh@yellowhead16.net

**Contact: Janette Camazzola,
Coordinator**

Literacy Kitimat operates under the "protective umbrella" of the Kitimat Community Services Society. Coordinator Janette Camazzola reports the group currently has 20 to 25 students working with 10 or 12 tutors.

NEWS FROM B.C.'s NORTH ... Northwest

The Haida Gwaii Learning Circle Literacy Society

**Box 441
Queen Charlotte City, B.C.
V0T 1S0
Phone: (250) 559-8832 (Queen
Charlotte City)
(250) 626-3477 (Masset)
Fax: (250) 559-9035
Contact: Kerri Wilkie**

Kerri Wilkie took over as coordinator of this community group in the fall of 1997. The group is active in training and matching volunteer tutors.

Kerri sent us a copy of **THE READER**, the newsletter she produces for her volunteer tutors, to illustrate current activity in the region.

Excerpts from **THE READER** are re-printed below.

Literacy Goes Live June 6 -- Learning Fair and AGM

Opportunities for learning are everywhere on Haida Gwaii. Learn and play on June 6 from 1 - 3 p.m. There will be displays, computer demos, door prizes and goodies. Our AGM will follow the learning fair.

Paper ... Paint ... Scissors ... Glue ...
Bookmaking and printmaking for kids of all ages. Come and make a story book.

More than just books
Want to know how to build a greenhouse, speak Spanish or write a business plan -- you can find it at the Library. Take out a video or sign out a book!

Haida Language Interactive Display

Joan Moody will show us some of the Haida learning projects from the Skidegate Elementary Secondary School.

A new way of looking at reading
Forget about grades and get on the Reading Continuum with the Living and Learning School.

Laptop Computer Demonstration
We have software for basic reading and writing. The Academy of Reading is set up like a school and you pick the room to go in. There will also be computer demos of spelling software, tutor training software and kid's learning games.

More news ...

Canadian Give the Gift of Literacy Foundation

Non-profit community literacy groups can apply for grants to develop materials for adult learners and their teachers through the Canadian Give the Gift of Literacy Foundation.

◆ **Seed Grants:** Up to \$2,500 to begin the process of creating literacy materials by developing an idea, performing a needs assessment, and creating a working sample of a project.

◆ **Production Grants:** Up to \$5,000 to produce materials for adult learners and their teachers. Applicants must submit a working sample of the project materials.

The application deadline is **June 30, 1998.**

For an application form, contact Literacy B.C. at 1-800-663-1293.

For more information, contact:

Sharon English, Coordinator
Canadian Give the Gift of Literacy Foundation
35 Spadina Road
Toronto, Ontario M5R 2S9
Phone: (416) 975-9366
Fax: (416) 975-1839



Who We Are

Our mission is to support literacy learners, to develop community partnerships, and to present a united voice on literacy. We are supported by the B.C. Ministry of Advanced Education, Training and Technology; Human Resources Development Canada, The National Literacy Secretariat; memberships; and donations.

Here's how you can reach us:

Literacy B.C.
622 - 510 West Hastings Street
Vancouver, B.C.
V6B 1L8
Phone: 1-800-663-1293 toll free
in B.C.
(604) 684-0624 in the
Lower Mainland
Fax: (604) 684-8520
Email: literacy_bc@douglas.bc.ca
WWW: <http://www.nald.ca/lbc.htm>

*Donations to Literacy B.C. are
tax deductible.*

NEW RESOURCES ... from B.C. literacy cost-shared projects

Reaching The PEAK. A Tutor's Handbook for Using the Community Newspaper (Malaspina University College, Powell River).

This manual is designed to show tutors how to connect learners with their community by using the local newspaper as a learning tool.

It was developed because, "Most learners find themselves isolated and do not participate in most of the town's rich social life. They simply do not have any idea about the diverse opportunities available to them in the town they live in."

The PEAK, Powell River's tabloid weekly, is used "to make the connection between reading and real life." The PEAK was chosen because of its "friendliness" to low literacy learners and its human interest stories and clear language policy.

The manual offers a selection of reading, writing and critical thinking strategies and activities, followed by sample units using the newspaper. Writing activities are designed to help learners develop confidence and find their own "voice." In the exercise, *The Dream Date*, the learner picks a celebrity from history, TV, sports or movies and plans the perfect date with that person.

Three sample units show the original PEAK newspaper article and an abridged re-written version for learners at different reading levels. The sample units illustrate how learners can choose an article from their own newspaper and select the appropriate activities or strategies to rewrite it.



Editorial staff of the Vancouver Daily World (1901)

Vancouver Stories -- People in its History and Places in its History.

With accompanying ***Reading and Writing Exercises. Basic Education Department, Vancouver Community College, in collaboration with the Vancouver Public Library.***

These two booklets contain stories of Vancouver's early years, of its "unsung heroes and little known past."

People in its History highlights four "people who were not very well known but nonetheless made an important contribution to the history and development of Vancouver." One example is Sara Ann McLagan, the first woman publisher of a Canadian daily newspaper.

Places in its History has stories about four places from Vancouver's "rich and colourful past" in the late 1800s -- Kitsilano, Granville Island, Deadman's Island (Stanley Park) and the Lion's Gate Bridge. 📖

Copies of these resources available while supplies last from Literacy B.C.

A FEAST OF FIRST NATIONS RESOURCES ...

Shishalh Stories: a literacy reader.



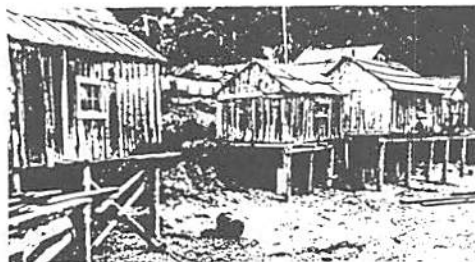
The history and legends of the Shishalh (Sechelt) Nation are re-told in this reader designed for First Nations literacy learners. The book was compiled by the the Sechelt Indian Band Education Centre from stories passed on by Sechelt elders. Each story is accompanied by exercises on comprehension and vocabulary; the book is illustrated by a local Sechelt community artist.

Shishalh Stories is the first in a series of First Nations, culturally-relevant materials that will be developed for literacy instruction.

The Living World. Plants and Animals of the Kwakwaka'wakw (U'mista Cultural Society, Alert Bay).

This resource documents 101 species of plants and animals of cultural significance to the Kwakwaka'wakw.

Gwa'Sala - 'Nakwaxda'xw Stories, Volume 1 ... in our own words. (Council of the Gwa'Sala - 'Nakwaxda'xw First Nation)



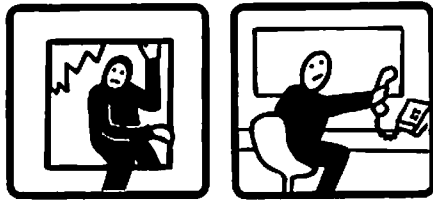
Houses at the Deserters village, 1940. The house on the left belonged to Ed Walkus. The houses on the right belonged to Long Harry and Alfred Charlie. The house in the background with just its roof showing belonged to Willie Seaweed. (RBCM PN 2262)

There has long been a need to bring forth something that First Nations could identify with in terms of being able to relate to the learning process... Journeys were undertaken during the course of this project to visit the traditional homelands and to record memories, traditional food gathering practices and so on.

from the foreward to this book of stories from the Port Hardy area.

Copies of the cost-shared products on this page are available from Literacy B.C. while supplies last.

More resources ...



Legalpix (Card set and manual). A Pictorial Journey Through British Columbia's Criminal Justice System.

This is the first volume of a planned series which will use pictures (LEGALPIX) to illustrate the basic concepts of the law, and the people, places and processes associated with B.C.'s criminal justice system.

The pictures are in a "Card Set " of black drawings on heavy white paper, each illustrating a concept such as, "break and enter," or "call a lawyer."

The emphasis of the first volume is on the concepts and consequence of a crime, and what happens when one is accused of a crime, from the perspective of the accused.

The series was created by the Kindale Developmental Association, a non-profit agency which provides residential and day programs to mentally and physically challenged adults, in collaboration with the Law Courts Education Society of B.C.

To order copies, contact:

Kindale Developmental Association
P.O. Box 94
Armstrong, B.C. V0E 1B0
Phone: (250) 546-3005
or

Law Courts Education Society of B.C.
Suite 221, 800 Smithe Street
Vancouver, B.C. V6Z 2E1
Phone: (604) 660-9870

The Literacy Audit Kit. Tools to help make your services more accessible (Alberta Association for Adult Literacy).

Do the literacy demands of your organization raise barriers for some clients? Is your organization accessible for adults with low literacy skills? This resource is designed for community agencies and service groups to help them develop appropriate literacy strategies.

The kit has two parts -- an audit manual and a video called, "Literacy Matters".

The manual is an "audit tool" to measure how clients and staff rate an organization's ability to meet the often unspoken literacy needs of clients. Possible literacy barriers are grouped into four areas -- user friendliness of the physical environment, print materials, clear verbal communication, and literacy sensitivity. People are asked to respond to 40 statements about these areas using a rating scale. The manual shows what to look for and how to interpret the results.

Order the Literacy Audit Kit from:

Alberta Association for Adult Literacy
605, 332 - 6 Avenue S.E.
Calgary, Alberta T2G 4S6
Phone: (403) 297-4994
Fax: (403) 297-6037

B.C. Book Raises Funds for Literacy

Sound Smart... and donate to literacy in B.C. at the same time.

That's the idea behind a new book by a B.C. writer/broadcaster, whose aim is to educate you in the power of the well-chosen word and entertain you at the same time.

Sound Smart -- 101 Ways to Turn a Phrase, by Robert S. Burns, is a communications manual, educational tool, reference guide and, not least, "an entertaining satire on the English language."

Burns claims he has "essentially distilled the English language down to 101 ways to Sound Smart." He wrote the book "for the countless times you have reached for the right words or phrase to meet a certain occasion but were only able to mumble some half-baked response."

Sound Smart (\$7.95 Canadian) is being sold at all 145 7-Eleven stores across B.C. One dollar from each B.C. sale will be donated to Literacy B.C. The book will also be available soon at 7-Eleven stores in Alberta and Ontario.

"With hundreds of thousands of words in the English language, which are the best ones to use ... to project our intelligence?" Burns asks. He says he, "sifted through thousands of words and evaluated them for phonetic balance, syllable structure and rhythmic

characteristics." Then he selected what he calls 101 "influential words and power phrases" for a wide variety of situations – social, work and special occasions. Each is presented with a definition, pronunciation and example.

Here is one example:

Salubrious(sa-lube-re-ous)
Promoting good health. Healthful. This is one of those "ain't it a wonderful day" types of words. Using it will display your considerable vocabulary, while allowing you to promote a "feel good" atmosphere. Say, "feel that salubrious wind on your face. Isn't it refreshing?...." This will either impress or annoy, but using new and unusual words involves taking risks, so go for it!

Burns came up with the idea of contributing to literacy because, "Literacy is a fundamental social issue which I feel is a bit underexposed... Even though the book does not deal with basic literacy, it is about words....and vocabulary. I felt it was a good tie-in to raise public awareness."

He is enthusiastic about the arrangement with 7-Eleven Canada and the News Group distributor to carry the book for 90 days this summer. **Sound Smart** will also be available in bookstores such as Chapters and Duthies. In addition, Burns has prepared a series of 30-second TV spots to promote the book, which will air on The Knowledge Network beginning in June. He hopes to find a sponsor to air the spots on other networks. ☐

Announcements

The LEARNING Link presents

Towards a Learning Canada



Canadian
Lifelong Learning
Lyceum '98

Great Beginnings:
Widening The Circle

**Learning in communities,
families and organizations**

**2001 The Canadian Year of
Lifelong Learning**

**October 15 - 18, 1998
Ocean Pointe Resort
Victoria**

**for learning providers,
practitioners and participants
co-hosted by the
Centre for Curriculum, Transfer &
Technology
Canadian Vocational Association
B.C. Council for Families**

For information, contact:
The Learning Link
400 First Edmonton Place
10665 Jasper Avenue
Edmonton, Alberta
T5J 3S9
Phone: 1-800-596-5392
Fax: (403) 421-7159
e-mail: tlink@connect.ab.ca
www.connect.ab.ca/~tlink

Literacy B.C.'s Summer Literacy Institute still open

The deadline for registering in the 1998
Summer Literacy Institute at Simon
Fraser University has been extended to
June 22.

Call Jean Rasmussen at Literacy B.C.
(1-800-663-1293 toll-free) for details.

Participants in the Institute may be entitled
to receive credit in the **Certificate in Adult
and Continuing Education (CACE)**.
Participants must receive pre-approval
from CACE - contact Diane Anderson
(see below).

The University of Victoria
**Certificate in Adult and Continuing
Education (CACE)** program will offer
a course called
Teaching Literacy Skills to Adults
in the spring of 1999 through distance
education.

For further information contact:

Diane Anderson
CACE Program Coordinator
Phone (250) 721-7860
e-mail: danderson@uvcs.uvic.ca